



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, November 15, 2007**

**07-163**

**ANCHORAGE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT  
TO CONSPIRACY IN RELATION TO DRUG TRAFFICKING**

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced today, November 15, 2007, that Vanisa Yvonne Crenshaw, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court to a charge of conspiracy in relation to controlled substance trafficking.

Crenshaw, age 21, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine base, or “crack,” before Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick. Yancy Darnell Johns, Jr. is also named as a defendant in the indictment, and he pleaded guilty to a similar offense on November 14, 2007.

In connection with the guilty plea, Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White advised the court that on three separate occasions, co-defendant Johns sold crack cocaine to a government informant. Crenshaw provided assistance to the defendant by driving him to at least one meeting place for a drug deal, returning telephone calls made to co-defendant Johns from the government informant, and arranging her own meetings with the informant for the purpose of selling crack cocaine. The total amount of crack distributed during the course of this conspiracy was 8.7 grams.

Judge Sedwick announced that sentencing will take place on February 7, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 5 to 40 years in prison, a fine of \$2 million, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Judge Sedwick remanded Crenshaw into custody at today’s hearing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the conviction in this case. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney’s Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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